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BY CAVIS & TRIMMIE.

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T. O. F. VERNON, Associate Editor.

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CAROLINA SPARTAN.

THE DRAINAGE BILL.

The following act to promote the improvement of swamp lands was passed at the late session of our Legislature, and is now in full force:

An Act to promote the draining and improvement of Inland Swamps.

I. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, now met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, That whenever two-thirds or more of the proprietors of the lands lying in or near any inland swamp, owning not less than two-thirds of such swamp, shall associate themselves together by written articles of agreement, for the purpose of draining and improving the same, (to be filed and recorded in the Clerk's office of the district in which the said land or the larger portion thereof may lie,) they shall thereupon become and be a body corporate for the purpose aforesaid, by the name of the proprietors of said swamp, designated by the name by which it is commonly called and known, and shall have power and authority to make and ordain by-laws for the regulation and government of such corporation, not inconsistent with any law or statute of force within this State, and to make such assessments of money and labor on the members of the corporation as may be requisite for carrying into effect the objects thereof.

II. That it shall be lawful for every such corporation, by its agents, surveyors, engineers and assistants, to enter upon any lands and premises lying in or near the swamp, for the draining and improvement thereof, and owned by persons not being members of such corporation, for the purpose of inspecting, examining, and surveying the same; and if it shall appear, by the report of a competent engineer, to be necessary for the draining and improvement of such swamp, that any canal, water-way, ditch, drain, dam, embankment, sluice, flood-gate, or other work, should be made or constructed in, through or upon any lands of any person not a member of the corporation, and no agreement can be made for obtaining the consent of the owner of said land thereto, then such corporation may apply, by petition to the Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas of the district in which such land is situated, (and if it lies in several districts, to the court of either of said districts,) setting forth the facts of the case, and praying that Commissioners may be appointed by the Court, to ascertain and assess the value of the land which would be occupied by such works, and also the amount of loss or damage which the making or construction thereof would cause to the owner of the land; a copy of which petition, together with a copy of the engineer's report upon which it is founded, and notice in writing of the time and place at which the same will be brought to a hearing, shall be served upon the owner of the land at least ten days before such hearing. And upon the hearing of such petition, unless it be denied by affidavit that it is necessary for the draining and improvement of such swamps to make or construct any such works as aforesaid, through or upon the land owned by any person not a member of the corporation, and affirmed in the same manner that such swamp can be as well and effectually drained and improved without encroaching upon any such land, the Court shall appoint three competent and disinterested persons to be Commissioners for the purposes aforesaid. And the persons so appointed, having first been duly sworn to execute and perform the duties assigned them as such Commissioners, truly and impartially, and to the best of their judgment and ability, shall proceed to inspect and examine the premises, giving at least three days' previous notice of such inspection and examination to the parties interested, and after such inspection and examination to make the valuation aforesaid, and return the same in writing under their hands to the Court. But in case of such denial and affirmation as aforesaid, the issue so made shall be submitted in a summary manner to a jury, and upon the finding of the jury, if the same shall be for the petitioners, Commissioners shall be appointed and proceed as before directed; but if the jury find for the respondents or defendants, no appointment of Commissioners shall be made. Provided, That either party may move for a new trial; but not more than one new trial shall be allowed in any case on the same issue. Either party may appeal from the valuation and assessment made by the Commissioners to the Court at its next session after such valuation and assessment, giving reasonable notice of such appeal to the other party; whereupon the Court shall cause a new valuation and assessment to be made by a jury, and their verdict shall be final and conclusive, unless a new trial be granted. Provided, That not more than one new trial shall be allowed in any such case of valuation and assessment. Upon the final determination of such valuation and assessment, either by the return of the Commissioners not appealed from, or in case of appeal by the finding of a jury not appealed from, or upon a second finding

after a new trial is granted, and upon payment of the amount of such valuation and assessment to the party entitled to receive the same, or upon tender and refusal thereof, and payment of the same into Court, it shall be lawful for the corporation, at all times thereafter, by its officers and agents, to enter upon the land to which such valuation and assessment had reference, for the purpose of making and constructing, maintaining and keeping in repair, any such work as aforesaid. In all cases of appeal full costs shall be awarded, and the collection thereof enforced as in cases of trespass on the case.

III. That if any person owning land in or near any inland swamp, for the draining and improvement whereof any such corporation shall have been formed, not being a member of the same, or any tenant or agent of such person, shall, for the purpose of draining, flowing, or in any manner using, benefiting or drawing profit from such land, make use of any canal, water-way, ditch, drain, dam, embankment, sluice, flood-gate, or other work made or constructed by such corporation, without the consent of the corporation, such owner or tenant shall be liable to pay to the corporation such reasonable rent therefor as they may demand, not exceeding one-third of the clear annual value of the land, including any addition thereto derived from the use of any such work as aforesaid. That if the owner of the land, in or near any inland swamp, for the draining and improvement whereof any such corporation shall have been formed, desires to become a member of such corporation, instead of paying rent as above provided, he shall be at liberty to do so by paying his proportion of the expenses incurred by the company, with interest on the same.

IV. That all the lands drained and improved by any corporation formed as aforesaid, and owned by members of such corporation, shall be liable for the debts of the corporation; and if the land of any member of any such corporation shall be taken in execution and sold to satisfy any judgment or decree against the corporation, the person whose land shall have been so taken in execution and sold shall be entitled to receive, as compensation therefor, by contribution from the other members of the corporation, the value thereof, and shall have the benefit of the lien of such judgment or decree for enforcing the payment thereof; for which purpose such judgment or decree shall remain in full force and virtue.

V. That any person having a legal or equitable estate, in fee or for life, in land lying in or upon any inland swamp, or in land through or upon which it may be necessary to make or construct any work for draining or improving any such swamp, (except more trustees without beneficial interest,) shall be deemed a proprietor or owner of such land for the purposes of this act; and in every case in which any such person shall be an infant, married woman, idiot or lunatic, the guardian of such infant, the husband of such married woman, and the committee of such idiot or lunatic, shall be deemed a proprietor or owner of such land for the purposes of this act: Provided, That such guardian, husband or committee, shall apply in a summary way, by petition to the Court of Chancery, in behalf of their respective infants, wives, idiots or lunatics, for leave to become members of any corporation formed under this act for draining and improving the swamp in which the land of such infants, wives, idiots or lunatics, are situated, in respect of such lands, and the said Court shall have power to inquire into the propriety of granting such leave, and to make such order therein as may seem meet; and if the Court shall grant leave, it shall be lawful for the person who shall have presented the petition to become a party to the articles of association for forming such corporation in respect of such land, and the same shall be as binding and effectual to all intents and purposes as if such person had been the actual proprietor of such land.

VI. That every swamp, except such as are commonly called river swamps, or river bottoms, or river margins, shall be deemed an inland swamp for the purposes of this act.

VII. That every corporation formed under the provisions of this act shall have a chairman and a secretary, and shall keep regular minutes of its proceedings.

VIII. That whenever two-thirds or more of the proprietors of the swamp or bottom lands lying on any river, creek, or other water course, owning not less than two-thirds of all such swamp or bottom, shall enter into written articles of agreement that such swamp or bottom shall be deemed and taken to be an inland swamp, and be subject to the provisions of this act, such swamp or bottom shall thereupon be deemed and taken to be an inland swamp, and be subject to all the provisions of this act, in the same manner as other inland swamps, and the owners thereof shall be invested with all the rights, powers, and privileges herebefore given to the owners of inland swamps, and shall be subject to the same conditions and obligations.

IX. That where said inland swamp is owned to the amount of two-thirds by one individual, he or she shall possess all the rights and powers conferred by this act on the corporation aforesaid.

SOUTHERN QUARTERLY REVIEW.—This publication, from its commencement in New Orleans, by Mr. Whittaker, until its removal from Charleston, a period of thirteen years, or twenty-six volumes complete, firmly and neatly half bound, is offered for sale at the original subscription price. To a public or private library the work would be valuable.

DEATH OF HUGH MILLER,

OF EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND.

In common with thousands in this country, we are shocked at the sudden announcement of the death, under distressing circumstances, of this eminent man. It seems but yesterday that he received us in his own house, conducted us through the museum which cost him so much labor to collect, and in the imaginary defence of which he seems to have perished by his own hand. We respond to the remarks of the Scottish Guardian:

"The announcement of the death of Hugh Miller will be heard with a thrill of genuine sorrow throughout the Church in which he was a standard-bearer—throughout Scotland, of which he was one of the most conspicuous ornaments—throughout the world of science, which associates his honored name with those of the men most distinguished in our day, as fellow-workers in building up the stately fabric of the modern geology." The intelligence was communicated to the public in the following terms from the office of the paper of which he was editor:

WITNESS OFFICE, DEC. 24.
"SUDDEN DEATH OF MR. HUGH MILLER.
"It is our melancholy duty to announce this sad event. Mr. Miller had been ill for some time—working hard and late at night, in completing his new work on Geology. He had become, in consequence, subject to aggravated attacks of night-mare, which partook of the nature of somnambulism. Some time ago attempts had been made to break into his museum; and he, in consequence, had always slept with a loaded revolver on the table by his side. Yesterday, on account of headache and unrefreshing sleep, he had seen his medical advisers, who had warned him of overwork, and prescribed suitably. Last night, according to their request, he had taken a warm sponge-bath, and retired early to rest. After having slept some considerable time, he had apparently awaked in a fit of night-mare, and, taking up the pistol, had reached the bed-room door, as far as the bath, which had been left, after use, in the adjoining apartment. There the pistol had exploded, the bullet passing through the chest, and death must have been instantaneous. The sound not having been heard upon the ground." What he wrote then and there no one knows; though perhaps the most plausible conjecture is that he wrote the answer to the question, whether the woman taken in the act of adultery should be stoned. "He that is without sin among you, let him cast a stone at her." Healer, did this strange fact ever occur to you, that the greatest reformer that ever lived—professing the divine teacher sent of God to reveal his truth to the world—whose teachings have survived the wreck of ages, and now command the credence, respect and the most profound admiration of the enlightened world, and who is claimed as the "author and finisher" of a great system of faith and practice, has left behind him no sentence of his writing, and those unknown characters written with his finger in the sand constitute the sum total of all his writings of which there is any account?

Is there, or has there ever been, since the invention of letters, or even logography, any such thing as a system of religion, whose founder did not take special pains to reduce his teachings to writing, and thus give them the most exact and permanent form?

The Brahmins have their Vedas, their Puranas, their Ramayana, and their laws and institutes of Menu, and these are all written and preserved with the most careful attention. The Persians have their Zendavesta, attributed to their leader, Zoroaster, containing the doctrine and laws of their religion. The Jews had their sacred books; and Moses and the prophets, and David, and Solomon, put their teachings in writing, that they might be preserved.

Plato and Pythagoras, and Cicero and Demosthenes, wrote much. Mahomet wrote the Koran, and gave it to the faithful as their guide. The writings of Swedenborg are voluminous; and in our day, even the Mormon impostor wrote his book of Mormon. But here comes one who claims precedence even to Moses and Abraham, and especially claims that a greater than Solomon is in his own person, and announcing himself as a herald of a new dispensation from God, which is to cast Moses and the prophets in the shade, and prevail over all other systems, and subvert our entire race, and yet this great teacher wrote never a word, save only the characters in the sand, which the next breath of wind might obliterate. Who can account for this strange procedure? Will it comport at all with the idea that he was an impostor? Did ever an impostor pursue a course like this? Never. And it seems to us that in the single fact to which we have alluded, there is the impress of truth, and proof that his mission is all divine. He stands out before us as one who knows that his mission is from God, and that it can stand upon its own merits. So confident is he of his power, that he is content to breathe it out upon God's air, and leave it to live by its own inherent and self-perpetuating immortality, or live not at all. And so he goes about doing good, now teaching in the synagogue and temple, now talking to his disciples as he sits on Olivet or by the sea of Galilee, and now dropping a word as he walks by the way. And there is not manifested the slightest apprehension that what he says will be lost. He writes it not on stone or parchment. Nay, he writes it not at all. He seeks only to give it a lodgment in the hearts of the few disciples that followed him—to make them comprehend it, and feel its power, and love it; and is willing to leave it there to produce its fruits, and to be written by the hand of affection, if it should be written at all. And on those hearts he did impress himself; and they, for the love they bore him, wrote the meagre sketch we have of his life and teachings.

style of earnest and dignified remonstrance, and with a cogency of reasoning and a force and facility of expression which at once pointed him out to the leading men in the Church as eminently qualified to promote the popular cause. The result was the establishment of the *Witness* newspaper, and the appointment of Mr. Miller as its editor and proprietor. Our readers will remember the zeal and energy with which Mr. Miller devoted himself to the defence of the church's spiritual liberties. Even beyond the immediate sphere of the contest, his vigorous, lively and trenchant articles were universally read and admired, as specimens of powerful controversial writing. Beyond all comparison, one of the Church Choirs, Hugh Miller was the most popular champion the church possessed. At the time of her triumphant exodus, when her ministers and members assembled in Canonmills Hall in the full flush of victory and freedom, the appearance of none of her defenders, amidst that vast and animated throng—where Chalmers and Welsh, Gordon and Cunningham, and Candlish stood conspicuous—elicited plaudits louder and longer than when Hugh Miller was seen lifting his stalwart form and noble head amongst the people.

To Mr. Miller's versatile talents, and the varied contributions of his pen to criticism, art, philosophy, and science, is applicable, also, more than to any other writer of the day, the panegyric pronounced upon Goldsmith, that there was no branch of knowledge which he did not touch, and which touching he did not adorn. His most profound work, the "Footprints of the Creator, or the Asterolepis of Stromness," is a contribution to natural theology of inestimable importance. It has been adopted as a textbook by some of the most eminent teachers of geology in the Universities; and it has done more to expose the atheistical fallacies and sophistries of the "Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation" than even the elaborate essays of Sedgwick and Brewster.

[New York Observer.]

Christ no Writer.

One of the most remarkable facts in the history of Christ, is that he left no writings behind him, and the only record there is of his writing anything is in the case where "he stooped down and with his finger wrote upon the ground." What he wrote then and there no one knows; though perhaps the most plausible conjecture is that he wrote the answer to the question, whether the woman taken in the act of adultery should be stoned. "He that is without sin among you, let him cast a stone at her." Healer, did this strange fact ever occur to you, that the greatest reformer that ever lived—professing the divine teacher sent of God to reveal his truth to the world—whose teachings have survived the wreck of ages, and now command the credence, respect and the most profound admiration of the enlightened world, and who is claimed as the "author and finisher" of a great system of faith and practice, has left behind him no sentence of his writing, and those unknown characters written with his finger in the sand constitute the sum total of all his writings of which there is any account?

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[Rev. J. D. Williamson.]

Charlotte and her Recollections.

Besides the honor of being the seat of the Convention in 1775, that issued the first Declaration of Independence, Charlotte, in Mecklenburg, North Carolina, has claims upon posterity, both singular and meritorious. The centre of a fertile and populous country, she was doomed to see the blood of her sons shed and the Declaration of Independence of all foreign dominion maintained at the point of the British bayonet. Cornwallis called Charlotte the "horne's nest," and unwilling to pay for supplies with so much English blood, after the fatal battle at King's Mountain became known to him, his lordship determined to leave this vexatious post. To prevent annoyance, he chose to depart suddenly, and in the night. Mr. McCalister, a man of wealth and standing, a Scotchman, and resident in Charlotte, was chosen as their guide to South Carolina. After so bewildering the army in the swamps, that much of their baggage was lost, he contrived to escape, and leave the army to find their way by the returning light of day.

Colonel Thomas Polk, so favorably mentioned in the history of the Declaration, owned property in and around Charlotte. His mill was between two and three miles south of the village, and is now called Bells'. His body lies interred in the grave yard of the village. Over his grave and Polk, late of Savannah, his son William Polk, late of Raleigh, erected a marble slab, a memorial of his resting place.

The Polk family came early to Mecklenburg, and in the time of the Revolution were numerous, and some of them very wealthy. They resided, part of them, in the bounds of Sugar Creek congregation, and part of them in Providence. Among them was Ezekiel Polk, the grandfather of James K. Polk, President of the United States. The descendants have all emigrated from the country, mostly to Tennessee, or States further South.

Garden, in his anecdotes of the American Revolution, says: "Nor were the ladies in Mecklenburg in any degree inferior in enthusiasm to the male population. I find in the South Carolina and American General Gazette, from the 2d to the 9th of February, the following paragraph:

"The young ladies of the best families of Mecklenburg county, North Carolina, have entered into a voluntary association, that they will not receive the addresses of any young gentleman at that place, except the brave volunteers who served in the expedition to South Carolina, and assisted in subduing the Seccavite insurgents. The ladies being of opinion that such persons as stay loitering at home, when the important calls of the country demand their services abroad, must certainly be destitute of that noble sense of sentiment, that brave, manly spirit, which would qualify them to be the defenders and guardians of the fair sex."

"The ladies of the adjoining county of Rowan have desired the plan of a similar association to be drawn up and prepared for signatures."—*Sketches of North Carolina.*

THE EPIGRAM OF A LADY.—The statement of Col. Benton, that the word "lady" is nowhere used in the Scriptures, is so far as the original is concerned, literally true. The word itself is of comparatively modern invention, and there is no word in the original of the Scriptures that has any significance corresponding with that of the word "lady," as at present received. In view of the subject, the following "epigram" from an old Scotch publication called "The Christian Teacher":

"A LADY.—The word lady is an abbreviation of the Saxon *Laflyd*, which signifies *Breadwinner*. The mistress of a manor, at a time when allient families resided constantly at their country mansions, was accustomed once a week, or oftener, to distribute among the poor a certain quantity of bread. She bestowed the bread with her own hand, and made the hearts of the needy glad by the soft words and the gentle amenities which accompanied her benevolence. The widow and the orphan 'rose up, and called her blessed'—the destitute and the afflicted recounted her praises—all classes of the poor embosomed her in their affections. The State of 'Ohio Proper' has a small majority. The *Cleveland Plaindealer* thus speaks: "'Ohio Proper' need have nothing to say about affairs in 'The Reserve.' We are a peculiar people, running altogether to priests, puritanism, and pumpkin pie. Oberlin is to be the capital of our new State, and Giddings is to be the Brigham Young of the concern. Women are going to vote; and men are going to part their hair in the middle. Patria will give place to pantaloons, and while men will not be allowed to run at large without their papers. Our railroads will run under ground, and will make connections only with Canada and Kentucky. The Constitution will be construed strictly, and all men will be considered equal, and some a little more so, depending on their color. The State of 'The Reserve,' by the grace of Joshua R. Giddings, is hereby declared a free and independent State. 'Ohio Proper' and all the other States of this Union will please conduct themselves accordingly."

MR. BUCHANAN AND KANSAS.—Some of the know-nothing papers (says the Nashville Union) profess to believe that Mr. Buchanan will not be true to the South on Kansas matters. We tell these papers that to be true to the South, it is only necessary he should be true to the constitution. The democratic party does not expect nor desire that the incoming administration shall do anything to make Kansas a slave or a free State; that is exactly the policy we oppose. Nor do they care what Mr. Buchanan's private views may be on the abstract question of slavery, so he recognises and enforces its constitutional rights. The democracy stand upon national, not sectional principles; and all they ask for is that no outside influence shall be brought to bear upon this question, but that it shall be left solely to those whom it concerns, viz: The people of the Territory themselves.

A bill has passed the Wisconsin Legislature excluding negroes, mulattoes, Indians and black persons from being witnesses in that State.

Cuba and Annexation.

We perceive that the subject of the annexation of Cuba is reviving with renewed force in the minds of the people. Filibustering, or rather stealing, the "gem of the Antilles" is given up, we are happy to say, "solid people" is, that if we have Cuba at all, it must be by fair and honest means; in other words, leaving a national treasury full to repletion, and Spain being bankrupt, we must take advantage of her necessities, plank down the cash and own Cuba. We see no objection to this course; it will satisfy honest people at home and abroad; it is now admitted that Kansas will come in as a free State, it is quite likely that the Southern politicians will offer a peaceable acquisition of Cuba, as an offset, and Mr. Buchanan's wishes, expressed before he was President elect, of securing both these advantages to the Union, will probably be realized under his administration. The universal desire in the North to have the sugar tariff repealed, will probably be gratified by the absorption of Cuba, so that we shall have cheaper sugars, without any violent change, and the Louisiana planters will most likely transfer their interests to Cuba, and thus will be quietly and peaceably appropriated by the United States the great monopolies of sugar, cotton and tobacco, all relying upon slave labor for their support, and rendering the institution permanent, beyond control—for so long as these great staples of human wants are in demand, so long will the slave be profitable, and so long will those interested in his fortunes have influence in our national councils to protect and maintain the relation of slave and master. The annexation of Cuba seems to be demanded mutually by the people of the North and South. To the first named, because it will give a necessary life-cheaper; to the second, because it will strengthen its political influence, and act for a time at least as an offset to the rapidly growing free States that are springing up in the great West. According to our view of the matter, Providence is working out the great question which agitates the country, and by the peaceful rules of necessity, reconciling the extremes of the country, and uniting them firmer and firmer by mutual interests.—*Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper.*

ELECTION OF UNITED STATES SENATOR.

On Wednesday last the legislature of Delaware re-elected Hon. James A. Bayard as United States Senator for six years from the 4th of March next, and elected Hon. Martin W. Bates for the unexpired term of Hon. John M. Clayton, deceased. We have already announced, in our telegraphic column, the election of Hon. J. S. Green, by the legislature of Missouri, to fill the vacancy in the Senate of the United States which has existed since the expiration of General Atchison's term on the 4th of March, 1855.

At a time when the democratic party has sustained so many losses from the treachery of professing friends as well as the assaults of open foes, the above announcement will be received with more than ordinary satisfaction. We may well congratulate the legislature of Delaware upon the wisdom and patriotism of their choice. This renewed evidence of confidence on the part of the democracy of that State towards Mr. Bayard is but a fitting tribute to his experience as a legislator, his abilities as a statesman, his devotion to the principles of the democratic party, and to that unbending integrity of purpose which has secured for him an influence which is felt far beyond the boundaries of his own State. His new colleague, Mr. Bates, is highly spoken of by his personal and political friends. The new senator from Missouri, Hon. J. S. Green, has already served with great distinction in the House of Representatives, and for one or two years most efficiently represented this country at New Grenada. He is an uncompromising democrat, and possesses legislative talents of a high order.—*Washington Union*, Jan. 16.

A NEW STATE.—The Western Reserve is proposed as a new State, outside of 'Ohio Proper,' which "goes democratic" by a small majority. The *Cleveland Plaindealer* thus speaks: "'Ohio Proper' need have nothing to say about affairs in 'The Reserve.' We are a peculiar people, running altogether to priests, puritanism, and pumpkin pie. Oberlin is to be the capital of our new State, and Giddings is to be the Brigham Young of the concern. Women are going to vote; and men are going to part their hair in the middle. Patria will give place to pantaloons, and while men will not be allowed to run at large without their papers. Our railroads will run under ground, and will make connections only with Canada and Kentucky. The Constitution will be construed strictly, and all men will be considered equal, and some a little more so, depending on their color. The State of 'The Reserve,' by the grace of Joshua R. Giddings, is hereby declared a free and independent State. 'Ohio Proper' and all the other States of this Union will please conduct themselves accordingly."

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THE DISUNION CONVENTION.—A lot of

the Massachusetts fanatics recently held a Convention at Worcester, to devise means for the effectual separation of the free from the slave States. Senator Wilson now appears to be in rather bad order with that class. He wrote a letter to the Convention, in which he said "that he had read with sincere and profound regret a movement which can have no other issue than to put a burden on the cause of freedom. It will, in his judgment, array against the anti-slavery sentiment that intense feeling of patriotism which glows for union in the nation. He regarded all such movements as disunion conventions as crimes against freedom." Upon this, a certain Mr. McVay arose and objected to calling Mr. Wilson either Honorable or General. He protested that Wilson was not worthy of either title. An honorable man ascends to God, Wilson does not. All the generals he had ever heard of or read of would fight; whereas challenged, Wilson did not fight; therefore he would strip the titles he falsely wears from him."

As to Senator Sumner, another speaker stated that he had had a "talk" with him in Boston, a few days previous, and when he asked him if, when he got back to Washington, he would reiterate his words against slavery, Mr. Sumner replied: "Reiterate, reiterate. If, when I get back to Washington, I make the speech I expect to make, it will be like fourth proof brandy to molasses and water." When asked what result he expected from it, he replied, "I expect to be shot; there is nothing else left for them to do."

THE GOLD REGIONS OF CALIFORNIA

OUTDO.—The Santa Fe Gazette announces the arrival of Mr. Idler, the agent and general director of the Mining Company, organized some time since in Washington city, to work the Placer mines near Santa Fe. Mr. Kurtz, a machinist from Norria engine shop, in Philadelphia, and Mr. Chapman, a millwright, all engaged in the same business. This, says the Gazette, is a new era in the history of New Mexico. Two steam engines, with crushing apparatus, are soon to be put in operation at the Placer mines, and the question will be settled as to whether gold abounds in sufficient quantities to justify the cost of extracting it by this description of machinery. If the experiment prove successful, it must produce a change in the business of the Territory, for the quantity of gold-bearing earth and rock is admitted to be inexhaustible, and there is room for any number of machines.

It has been stated that the gold mines of New Mexico bid fair to equal those of California. A letter from Santa Fe to a California paper gives a romantic account of their discovery. The story goes that a Mexican woman returned from an captivity of eight years among the Covato Apaches of the Gila country, bringing extraordinary accounts of gold treasures in the region inhabited by that tribe. The woman says that in the region from whence she escaped, gold exists in every quarry on the surface, and in great quantities, and that there was one large lump imbedded in the side of a hill, and jealously guarded by the tribe.

A FEARFUL PASSAGE.—We have been informed by Mr. P. F. Frazee, Sr., who was a passenger on board the steamer Marion, which left New York on Saturday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, for Charleston, where she arrived yesterday morning, that the trip was in the greatest degree fearful. During Saturday night a storm came up, and the steamer was compelled to lay to at Cape Hatteras for 26 hours in consequence of its violence. The cold, too, was so intense that horses were frozen to death, and the deck and combings, masts, sails, rigging, and every portion of the vessel exposed, were covered with ice to the thickness of 6 or 7 inches. The steamer Black Warrior, from Havana, bound to New York, passed the Marion while she was lying to, and Mr. Frazee informs us that she was literally covered with ice.

We take this occasion to state that Mr. Frazee speaks in the most complimentary manner of the skill and superior management of the Marion by the officers during the prevalence of the gale, when every passenger on board had concluded it almost impossible for the vessel to outlive the storm. Captain Foster and Mr. Thomas, the pilot, proved themselves worthy the responsible positions they occupy, and their vessel one of the staunchest crafts now plying between New York and Charleston.

[Columbia Times, 22d ult.]

DEATH PAINLESS.—It is nearly certain—indeed as certain as anything chiefly speculative can be—that in all deaths the physical suffering is small. Even where individuals experience the most excruciating agony during the progress of the disease, nature comes to their relief at the last hour, and life goes out gently, like a candle in its socket. Those who have witnessed death-beds most frequently—especially if they have been intelligent persons, and therefore capable of judging—agree generally in considering the physical pain of death as inconceivable. They say that the convulsive motions, which frequently attend the parting breath, are not evidences of suffering, but that the invalid is insensible. They say also, that when the senses are retained, there is usually no such pain. A leading medical authority states that scarcely one person in fifty is sensible at the point of death, and some physicians assert that they have never seen a death-bed on which the patient was sensible. As life falls, nature, it would seem, necessarily interposes, diminishing the sensibility of the nerves, and otherwise preparing the individual for the great and inevitable change.

[Phil. Ledger.]

THE STUDY OF GRAMMAR.—Jos. T. Buckingham, one of the best of living writers and grammarians, once said that "Not one child in a thousand ever received the least benefit from studying the rules of grammar before he was fifteen years old."